

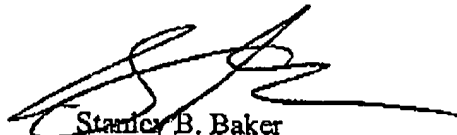
Cedrone  
Serial No. 09/780,306  
Filed: 02/09/2001  
Page 3

in the amendment to Claims 1 and 17 might be unsuitable. Upon reflection, the Applicant agrees with the Examiner's view of the term "lifted off" and has replaced these words with the term "separated from". It is believed that the term "separated from" more correctly conveys the information shown in the drawings.

Conclusion

In light of above amendments and the amendments and arguments submitted in the response of November 13, 2002, Applicant respectfully asserts that the Office's rejections are no longer applicable. Applicant respectfully asserts that the claims are in condition for immediate allowance and should proceed to allowance forthwith.

Respectfully submitted,


  
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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted by facsimile to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents to the attention of Examiner Alison K. Pickard at Fax No. 703-872-9327 January 14, 2003.

January 14, 2003  
Date

  
Mary V. Federal

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Cedrone  
Serial No. 09/780,306  
Filed: 02/09/2001  
Page 4

Marked-Up Amendments

In the claims:

Please amend Claims 1 and 17 as follows:

1. (Third Amendment) A gravity hinge consisting essentially of:
- an upper cylindrical knuckle having a first terminating surface and an opposing second terminating surface oblique to the axis of said upper knuckle;
  - a lower cylindrical knuckle having a first terminating surface and an opposing second terminating surface
- wherein said first terminating surface of said lower cylindrical knuckle is oblique to the axis of said lower knuckle and is at the same angle as said second surface of said upper knuckle;
- an oblique bushing separating said upper and lower knuckles, said bushing having the same angle as said second terminating surface of said upper knuckle and said first terminating surface of said lower knuckle; and
- a spindle received by at least one of said knuckles and said bushing, wherein said spindle establishes rotating communication between said upper and lower knuckles and allows said upper knuckle to be [lifted off] separated from said bushing;
- wherein said bushing has a lower coefficient of friction with respect to said respective oblique surfaces of said upper and lower knuckles than said respective surfaces have for each other and wherein said bushing and said knuckles form a continuous cylinder when said knuckles are in a resting position.

17. (Twice Amended) A gravity hinge consisting essentially of:
- an upper cylindrical knuckle having a terminating surface that is oblique to the vertical axis of said upper knuckle;

Cedrone  
Serial No. 09/780,306  
Filed: 02/09/2001  
Page 5

a lower cylindrical knuckle having a terminating surface that is oblique to the vertical axis of said lower knuckle and at substantially the same angle as said upper knuckle terminating surface;

a spindle for rotatably engaging said upper knuckle with said lower knuckle and allowing said upper knuckle to be [lifted off] separated from said lower knuckles; and

an oblique self-lubricating friction reducer surrounding said spindle and physically separating said knuckles wherein said self-lubricating friction reducer and said knuckles form a continuous cylinder when said knuckles are in a resting position.